

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-21 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, and 21 were amended and claims 5, 12, and 19 were canceled. In addition to the amendments described below, claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1, claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 8, and claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20 and 21 are at issue in the above-identified application.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 7, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 7, 14, and 21 contain the phrase “one or more characters of said set of text information.” This text information, as claimed, can include a single character or a plurality of characters. As the meaning of phrase appears clear, Applicants are unclear why the Examiner reads the text information to refer to a “group of characters.” Nevertheless, this Amendment rewords the limitation in claims 7, 14 and 21 to clarify and broaden its meaning.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 1 has been amended to address the issue raised by the Examiner. Claims 2-7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,088,711 (“Fein et al.”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP § 2131.

Claim 1 now includes the text “in a first record” as recited in canceled claim 5. Record-based storage is discussed, for example, on page 6 of the specification. Fein et al. does not describe either expressly or inherently “storing a set of styles associated with a word processing document *in a first record*.” (Emphasis added).

In the Office action mailed May 21, 2004 (“Office action”), the Examiner asserted that Fein et al. disclosed the limitation “in a first record” in column 1, lines 25-40 (Office action, p. 3). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. This passage discloses “storing formatting properties associated with a named style,” but the passage is silent as to how the storing is performed. Therefore, the passage does not disclose storing “in a first record.”

Fein et al. does not anticipate claims 8 and 15 for at least the same reasons that Fein et al. does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 6, 13, and 20 depend upon claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, and therefore they are not anticipated by Fein et al. for at least the same reasons.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 7, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,088, 711 (“Fein et al.”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 7, 14, and 21 depend upon claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, and therefore they are not unpatentable under Fein et al. for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,088, 711 ("Fein et al.") in view of Microsoft Word: User's Guide. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18 depend upon claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, and therefore they are not unpatentable under Fein et al. for at least the same reasons.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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